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EXAMINER

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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CONTINUATION of 11. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because:

Applicants' allege, on page 3 of Applicants' Remarks, that Chou et al (US 7,043,569) and Moon et al (US 7,000,052) fail to teach or suggest the features of claims 1 and 7.

Examiner respectfully disagrees. In the Final Action dated 08/18/2008, Examiner explained and showed the mapping of the various features of claims 1 and 7.

As to the feature of selecting the interface personality, Moon teaches identification for the input/output card may be provided to an end user, the identification reflecting a selected configuration parameter associated with the input/output card (see col. 1 lines 50 - 55).

Applicants' mainly argue, on page 4 of Applicants' Remarks, that Moon et al (US 7,000,052) fails to teach or suggest negotiations and the claimed interface personality.

Examiner respectfully disagrees. In response to Applicants' arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986). The primary reference of Chou teaches negotiations and the claimed interface personality. As to the feature of negotiations, Chou teaches configuration module 306 may be implemented in hardware, software, or a combination of both. In one embodiment, configuration module 306 consists of an initialization module 302 and a processor subsystem interface 304. Initialization module 302 queries processor subsystem interface 304 for configuration data. Processor subsystem interface 304 requests the configuration data from processor subsystem 310 and communicates the configuration data received from processor

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subsystem 304 to initialization module 302. Initialization module 302 **analyzes** the configuration data and distributes it to various units of switch 308 via an internal bus 312 (see col. 5 lines 15 - 26). As shown in the Final Action and as shown above, Chou teaches negotiations through the process of querying, requesting, analyzing and/or communicating between the various modules of switch 308 in Figure 3A. Plus, Chou teaches configuration data which is the claimed interface personality (see abstract, col. 3 lines 34 – 36, col. 4 lines 10 – 14 and Fig. 7). As address above, the reference of Moon was used to address selecting the interface personality.

Applicants' allege, on page 5 of Applicants' Remarks, that Chou et al (US 7,043,569) fails to teach or suggest different interface personalities can be implemented simultaneously among the plurality of module interfaces.

Examiner respectfully disagrees. Chou teaches each block of configuration data received from the non-volatile storage device **includes information identifying a unit** within the interconnect device that **should receive this block of configuration data** (see col. 7 lines 60 – 67 and col. 8 lines 1- 12). Each block of configuration data consists of 12 bytes: 4 bytes are designated for a destination node identifier (ID) and a destination node address, and 8 bytes are designated to store payload data (e.g., IAL packet payload data). **The payload data may include configuration data such as arbiter tables data, management port data, communications port data, etc.** The payload data is associated with a switch unit **identified by a destination node ID and address** that precede this payload data (see col. 9 lines 40 - 45). Referring to Fig. 7, each data block contains destination node ID/destination node address and configuration data; this shows that different configuration data (interface personalities) are sent to different nodes based on the node ID/address. The configuration data are implemented

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simultaneously as suggested by the EOC marker 3 of Fig. 7 to indicate that the series of data block 1 to data block N have been send.

As to the feature of a change in personality for the module, Chou teaches an indicator (see col. 5 lines 55 - 62, col. 7 lines 35 - 40 and Fig. 7). When information received by initialization module 302 from processor subsystem 310 includes a block of data associated with an automatic self test, initialization module 302 ensures that the test conditions are enforced and monitors the result of the test. When this activity is over, initialization module 302 resumes querying processor subsystem interface 304 for configuration data *until receiving an indicator associated with the end of the configuration data.* Then, initialization module 302 enables the communications ports, and switch 308 becomes ready to handle network traffic (see col. 5 lines 55 - 62). The indicator indicates that all data blocks (containing configuration data, see Fig. 7) have been send and that another series of data blocks could be received having another indicator.

Regarding identifying and selecting a new interface personality, Chou teaches switch 208 performs the process of querying, requesting, analyzing and/or communicating in col. 5 lines 14 - 25. Initialization module 302 is also responsible for *managing updates to configuration data when such data needs to be changed.* An update can be requested by a SM by issuing a SM packet. *Initialization module 302 receives an update SM packet and requests processor subsystem interface 304 to update the configuration data. Processor subsystem interface 304 then requests processor subsystem 310 to update the configuration data in non-volatile storage device 316 (see lines 63 - 67).*

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As to claims 1 – 12, Applicants base his arguments on the same ground and Examiner's reply still applies to claims 1 – 12.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anh Ngoc Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 270-5139. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F, from 7AM to 3PM (alternate first Friday off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kwang Yao can be reached on 5712723182. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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